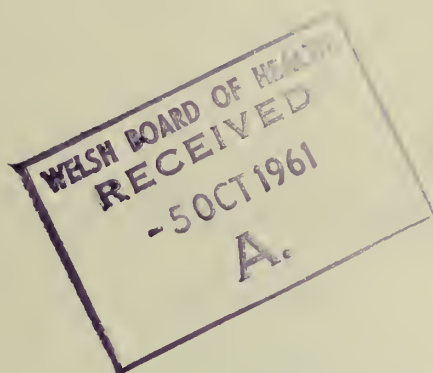


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USK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1960

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X ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FROM 1st July 1960  
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ANNUAL REPORT  
1960

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Rain and yet more rain! - such was the heraldic cry of the sixties. 1960 was the wettest year in living memory and to mark its final passage came the floods. In December we experienced the great deluge that flooded many parts of Monmouthshire. On Sunday, December 4th, Usk, like many other towns and villages, was virtually cut off. Houses and shops were steeped in chocolate coloured water, fields became lakes, roads were impassable and many cars and lorries were temporarily abandoned. Early the following morning mopping-up operations began and the organised effort of private individuals and public as well as voluntary services quickly restored order out of the chaos. Many sections of the community were affected in one way or another but friendliness and good neighbourliness was apparent everywhere. Happily, there was no loss of human life and no disease was attributed to this calamity. Recent experiments in West Germany seem to indicate a steep rise in deaths following a "muggy" period immediately preceeding a rain belt, and an increase in the number of complaints from nervous headaches and migraine to epileptic attacks and strokes during a "cold front". It seems that excessive moisture and certain pressure changes have more effect on health than changes in temperature. However judged by mortality statistics, most of the people in Usk enjoyed very good health throughout 1960 despite the heavy rainfall and the comparative lack of sunshine. But in the absence of accurate morbidity statistics it is difficult to estimate the amount or nature of sickness actually experienced.

In 1960, the adjusted death-rate for Usk was 13.77 per 1000 population. This is higher than the prevailing rate for the County of Monmouthshire and also for England and Wales. However, it is my pleasure to report that there were no still-births and no infant deaths. In fact there were no deaths under the age of 21 years, and only two occurred under 50 years. Another look at the year's mortality statistics show that most of those who died were pensioners, four of whom were in their nineties - once again a tribute to medicine as well as improved environmental and personal health services. Now that so many of us live to become septagenarians and even octagenarians, it behoves each and every one of us to provide, as far as possible, for a healthy and happy old age. Some community measures are already in existence eg. old age pensions, supplementary allowances, meals on wheels, home helps and home nursing. Others although in existence need to be extended; especially geriatric beds in hospitals, County Council Homes for the aged, bungalows and possibly ground floor flats.

Once again, I am pleased to report that I did not find it necessary to implement sec 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948 -50 whereby the Medical Officer of Health is responsible, after thorough enquiry and consideration, for certifying in writing to the Local Authority that it is necessary to remove any person suffering from grave chronic disease, or who is aged, infirm or physically incapacitated and who is living in insanitary conditions, in the interest of this person or for preventing injury to the health of, and serious nuisance to other persons.

The greater the number of old in the Community the higher the figure of those with physical or mental deteriorations. A recent survey revealed that there were some 5,726,000 sufferers from some severe form of rheumatism in Britain. It has also been estimated that 3,746,000 people over 65 years of age suffer from moderate or severe osteo-arthritis and the changes caused by this disease began in one person in ten at the age of 24 years, thereafter the incidence steadily rising with age. There is no reason to believe that Usk enjoys immunity from this crippling group of diseases. The total of registered blind in Great Britain rises annually and more than 80,000 of the present total of around 100,000 registered as blind are over the age of 60 years, but there were only 3 cases registered as blind in the town of Usk in 1960. We are well aware of the hearing loss that often occurs with advancing years and the frequency of incapacity which results from circulatory diseases in some form or other, and as yet, there seems to be no sign of arrest in the upward trend of mental ill-health. Herein lies the challenge of the future - the challenge of degenerative diseases. The ageing process cannot be arrested but it is more than possible that its onset can be delayed and its rate of progress slowed. Health clinics for the elderly may well provide some of the answers to the medical and social problems associated with age.



A further look at our mortality statistics show that infectious diseases, in 1960, were conspicuous by their absence, as a cause of death, but while the notifications remain incomplete we can only make a wild guess at their incidence. Preventive and curative measures have brought about a remarkable decline in both the morbidity and mortality of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and the possibility actually exists of eliminating it from our midst altogether. Almost everyone is aware that a death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis is a rarity. Nevertheless, it is still a serious disease because of the relatively long period of incapacity which occurs during its cure. Also, it is still an infectious disease which a sufferer can pass on to others. Even if the disease cannot yet be entirely prevented, it is of tremendous advantage if discovered in its early stages. Early detection is still the basis for rapidly successful treatment and mass radiography has played and continues to play a prominent part in the early diagnosis and control of this disease.

Diphtheria is another example of an infectious disease which may be down but not out. Some parents refuse or cannot be bothered to ensure adequate protection for their children although they are offered immunisation at the Infant Welfare Clinic, schools and the surgeries of general practitioners. We can but continue to preach to the complacent and neglectful. Without immunisation, not only Diphtheria but Whooping Cough, Small Pox and Poliomyelitis may again be as familiar as Cancer of the lung and Coronary Thrombosis. After the initial burst of enthusiasm only a few people between the ages of 27 and 40 years have been vaccinated against Poliomyelitis - it has been said that nobody has died lately, so the danger is ignored.

#### VITAL STATISTICS - 1960

|                                             |             |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Area .. .. .                                | 655 acres   |
| Population .. .. .                          | .. 1700     |
| Number of Inhabited Houses .. .. .          | .. 510      |
| (According to Rate Book on 31.12.60 .. .. . | ..          |
| Rateable Value .. .. .                      | .. £17, 183 |
| ld. Rate .. .. .                            | .. £64      |

1960

|                    |    |   |       |
|--------------------|----|---|-------|
| <u>LIVE BIRTHS</u> | M  | F | TOTAL |
| Legitimate         | 23 | 6 | 29    |
| Illegitimate       | -  | - | -     |
| TOTAL              | 23 | 6 | 29    |

|                            |      |        |                 |
|----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------|
| <u>LIVE BIRTH RATE</u>     | USK  | COUNTY | ENGLAND & WALES |
| <u>per 1000 population</u> | 17.6 | 17.29  | 17.1            |

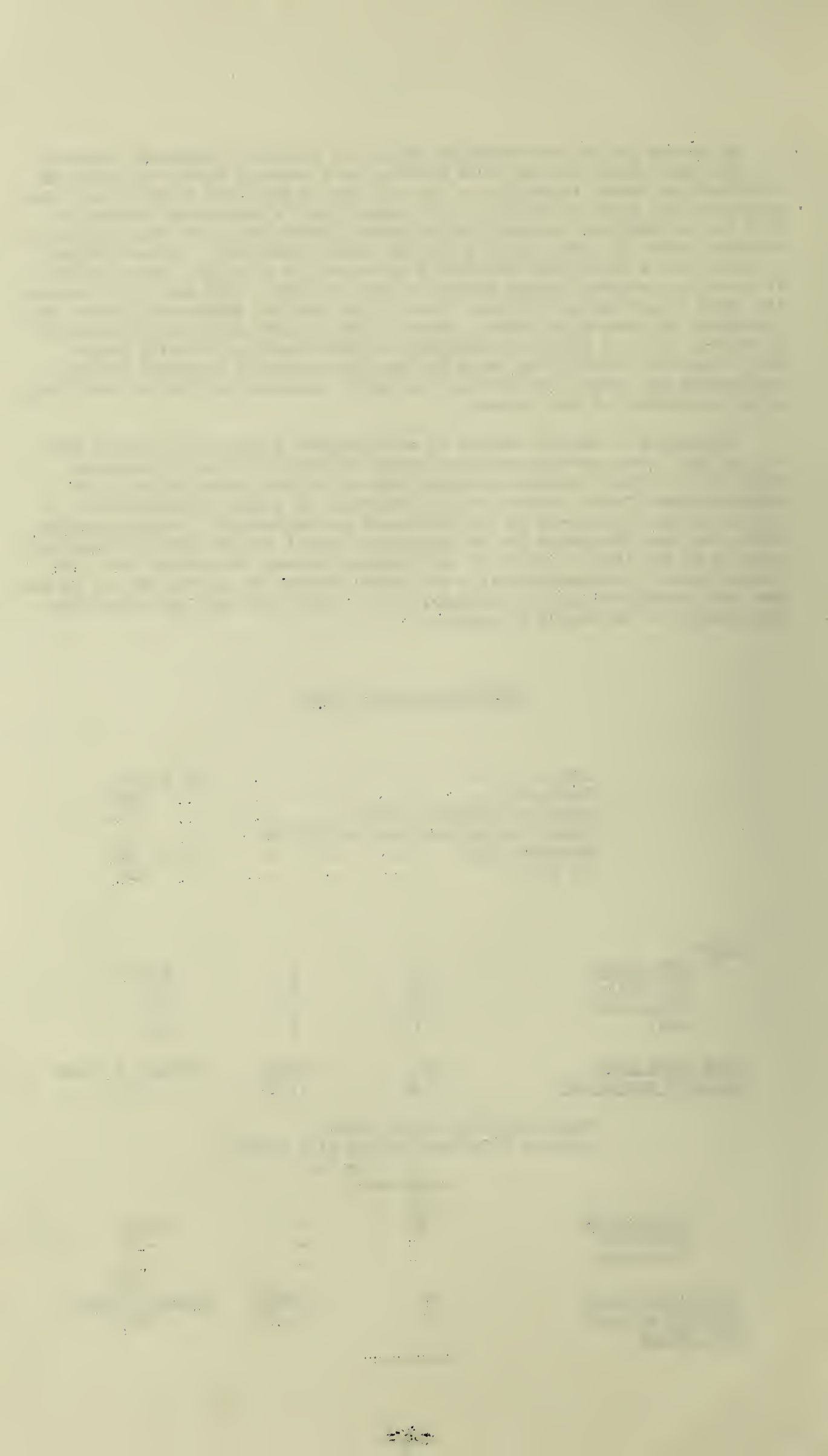
Comparability Factor = 1.09  
Adjusted live Birth Rate = 17.6 x 1.09  
= 19.2

-----

|                     |   |   |       |
|---------------------|---|---|-------|
| <u>STILL-BIRTHS</u> | M | F | TOTAL |
| Legitimate          | - | - | -     |
| Illegitimate        | - | - | -     |

|                                       |     |        |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----|--------|-----------------|
| <u>STILL-BIRTH RATE</u>               | USK | COUNTY | ENGLAND & WALES |
| <u>per 1000 live and still births</u> | Nil | 27.2   | 19.7            |

-----



| <u>DEATHS</u>     | M  | F  | TOTAL |
|-------------------|----|----|-------|
| <u>ALL CAUSES</u> | 13 | 10 | 23    |

| <u>Death rate per</u><br><u>1000 population</u> | USK  | COUNTY | ENGLAND & WALES |
|-------------------------------------------------|------|--------|-----------------|
|                                                 | 13.5 | 13.2   | 11.5            |

Comparability factor = 1.02  
 Adjusted Death Rate =  $13.5 \times 1.02$   
 = 13.77

| <u>DEATHS FROM CANCER</u> | M | F | TOTAL |
|---------------------------|---|---|-------|
|                           | 3 | 1 | 4     |

DEATHS FROM LUNG CANCER      -      -      -

Deaths due to Pregnancy, Child-birth, Abortion = 0

| <u>Maternal Mortality Rate</u><br>(Rate per 1000 live and still-births) | USK | County |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------|
|                                                                         | Nil | Nil    |

-----

INFANT MORTALITY

| <u>Infant Mortality Rate</u><br>(Rate per 1000 total live births) | USK | COUNTY | ENGLAND & WALES |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------|-----------------|
|                                                                   | Nil | 25.5   | 22.0            |

|                                                                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <u>Neonatal Mortality Rate = first 4 wks -</u><br>(Rate per 1000 total live births) | 17.6 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|

|                                                        |     |      |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|------|
| <u>Early Neonatal Mortality Rate</u><br>(Under 1 week) | Nil | 15.2 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|------|

|                                                                                                                        |     |      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------|
| <u>Perinatal Mortality</u><br>(Still-births and Infant Deaths<br>under 1 week)<br>per 1000 total live and still births | Nil | 42.0 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------|

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CAUSES OF DEATH - 1960

| CAUSE                                   | MALE | FEMALE |
|-----------------------------------------|------|--------|
| Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach           | 2    | -      |
| Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus            | -    | 1      |
| Other Malignant and Symphatic neoplasms | 1    | -      |
| Vascular Sesions of nervous system      | 2    | 2      |
| Coronary Disease, Angina                | 3    | 1      |
| Hyperte nsion with heart disease        | -    | 1      |
| Other Circulatory disease               | -    | 1      |
| Monchitis                               | 1    | -      |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis                 | 1    | -      |
| Other defined and ill defined diseases  | 1    | -      |
| All other accidents                     | 1    | 1      |
| Ischemic Heart disease                  | 1    | 3      |
| TOTAL                                   | 13   | 10     |



CLASSIFICATION OF DEATH according to Age and Sex

| AGE GROUP     | SEX  |        |
|---------------|------|--------|
|               | MALE | FEMALE |
| Under 1 year  | -    | -      |
| 1 - 9 years   | -    | -      |
| 10 - 19 years | -    | -      |
| 20 - 29 "     | -    | 1      |
| 30 - 39 "     | -    | -      |
| 40 - 49 "     | 1    | -      |
| 50 - 59 "     | 5    | 1      |
| 60 - 69 "     | 1    | 1      |
| 70 - 79 "     | 3    | 4      |
| 80 - 89 "     | 2    | -      |
| 90 +          | 1    | 3      |
| TOTAL         | 13   | 10     |

TUBERCULOSIS

NOTIFIED Pulmonary M. O.      F. O.      Non Pulmonary M. O.      F. O.

DEATHS                      "      M. O.      F. O.                      "      M. O.      F. O.

NOTIFIABLE Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

One Case only - Whooping Cough Male Aged 10 months.

VACCINATION against SMALL-POX

Numbers Vaccinated

| AGE GROUP    | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Under 1 year | 8    | 19   | 7    | 12   | 15   | 17   | 20   | 22   | 18   |
| 1 - years    | 2    | 2    | 5    | 5    | 11   | 2    | 7    | 2    | 5    |
| 5 - 14       | -    | -    | -    | 2    | 4    | 3    | 3    | 1    | 2    |
| 15 years +   | 2    | 3    | 6    | -    | 7    | 12   | 10   | 7    | 4    |
| TOTAL        | 12   | 24   | 18   | 19   | 37   | 32   | 40   | 32   | 29   |



IMMUNISATION against Diptheria and Whooping Cough

| AGE GROUP        | Numbers Immunised |      |      |      |      |      |          |          |                               |
|------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|----------|-------------------------------|
|                  | 1952              | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958     | 1959     | 1960                          |
| Under 5<br>Years | 9                 | 22   | 29   | 20   | 39   | 38   | 17<br>20 | 13<br>14 | 9 Diptheria<br>10 Whp. Cough  |
| 5 - 14           | 3                 | 33   | 66   | 11   | 22   | 6    | 24<br>0  | 1<br>-   | 1 Diptheria<br>1 Whp. Cough   |
| TOTAL            | 12                | 55   | 95   | 31   | 61   | 44   | 41<br>20 | 14<br>14 | 10 Diptheria<br>11 Whp. Cough |

In additon there were 29 "booster" injections of Diptheria prophylactic given.

Yours faithfully,

S. . . James Bsc. Mb. Bcl. D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



## USK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sessions House,  
Usk, Mon

Honourable Chairman, Mrs. Russell and Gentlemen,

I wish to submit my report of the work carried out in the district during the year 1960.

### INSPECTIONS

|                                                |     |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Infectious Diseases .....                      | 2   |
| Houses .....                                   | 34  |
| Re-inspections .....                           | 16  |
| Improvement Grants .....                       | 8   |
| Council Houses .....                           | 58  |
| Nuisances .....                                | 16  |
| Premises where food is prepared and sold ..... | 5   |
| Factories and Workshops .....                  | 8   |
| Public Conveniences .....                      | 4   |
| Water Supplies .....                           | 20  |
| Refuse Collection and Disposal .....           | 22  |
| Miscellaneous .....                            | 117 |
| Sewerage and Drainage .....                    | 37  |
| Sewage Works .....                             | 19  |
| Roads .....                                    | 24  |
| Street Lighting .....                          | 30  |
| Cattle Market .....                            | 22  |

### OVERCROWDING

Very little overcrowding exists in Usk. This is due to the fact that persons living in apartments in overcrowded conditions have been given priority by the Council when Council houses become vacant. No Council houses were erected during the past year.

### CARAVANS

No caravans were stationed in the district during the year.

The only ground used for caravan purposes is the Market Ground which is used solely for the accommodation of caravans during the Annual Trinity Fair. Water supply and sanitation are provided.



## HOUSING

### 1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year !

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts. 92
- (b) Number of inspections made for its purpose 92
- (ii) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation. 6

### 11. Remedy of defects during the year without Servicing of formal notice

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority on their Officers 6

### 111. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

- (1) Proceedings under the Housing Act 1957
  - (a) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. -
  - (b) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. -
  - (c) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made. -
  - (d) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice. -
- (11) Proceedings under the Public Health Act
  - (a) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied -
  - (b) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice -
    - (1) By Owners -
    - (11) By Local Authority in default of owners. -

## WATER SUPPLY

The town is served by the Pontypool Water Company's Undertaking and with the exception of six houses, which are distant from the mains, all houses have piped water supply.<sup>8</sup> Samples have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratories and were found to be satisfactory

Very good liason is maintained between your office and that of the Water Company.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The majority of houses in the district are connected to the town sewers. The sewage disposal plant deals with all sewage and is operating successfully, though very regular attention is required at the pumping station in connection with pump maintenance.

## RODENT CONTROL

The sewers are treated twice each year and no heavy infestations have been reported.

The sewage disposal works and refuse tip are regularly treated to keep any infestation to a minimum. During the year 30 properties were inspected and treated for minor infestations.



## FOOD HYGIENE

In general the premises are satisfactory and a good standard is maintained. However, in view of the limited time which the officers can spend in the Urban District a very close supervision is not possible at present.

### SLAUGHTER HOUSES ACT, 1957. Slaughter of Animals (Amendment Act).

There is only one slaughterhouse in the area, which can in my opinion be made to comply with the Hygiene Regulations.

#### Number of carcasses inspected and condemned

|                  | <u>Cattle</u> | <u>Sheep/Lambs</u> | <u>Pigs</u> | <u>Calves</u> |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Number killed    | 132           | 750                | 157         | 9             |
| Number inspected | 126           | 680                | 148         | 9             |
| % Inspected      | 95.4          | 90.6               | 90.2        | 100           |

#### All Diseases (except Tuberculosis)

Whole carcass condemned ..... nil  
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..... 18

#### Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned ..... nil  
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..... nil  
No. of visits for meat inspection ..... 150

#### Milk Distribution and Dairy Premises.

Particulars of dairies and dairy premises on the registers at 31st December, 1960.

Dairies 2  
Milk Distributors 4

There are no pasteurising or sterilising plants in the area. One dairy has a small bottling and washing plant kept in a clean and satisfactory condition. Both dairies and vehicles are satisfactory.

## HOUSING - IMPROVEMENTS

During the year the Council approved one discretionary grant and three standard grant applications. The total sum paid out was £481.

Every encouragement should be given to owners of suitable properties to improve and modernize their houses. The raising of the general level of older housing accommodation is well worthwhile.

## BUILDING BYE LAWS

Only a small amount of private building took place during the year, but, nevertheless 29 plans were submitted in comparison with 18 plans in 1959. 81 private dwellings have been erected since 1945.



### PETROLEUM LICENCING

There are 5 premises in the district where petroleum spirit is stored.

### REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

A weekly collection is in operation and is carried out on behalf of the Council by the Pontypool Rural District Council. This causes no complications as the responsible officers are employed jointly by the two Councils.

All tipping is carried out at the tip on the outskirts of the town. The conditions of the tip is not as good as I would like, mainly due to the lack of suitable covering material. In addition the problem of having to dispose of considerable quantities of paper and cord is causing some concern and difficulty. Salvage would not be an economic solution.

### FACTORIES ACTS

- (1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector)

| Premises                                                                                | Number on Register. | N U M B E R O F<br>Inspections. Written Notices. |     | Occupiers<br>Prosecuted |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| (1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3, 4, 6, are to be enforced by the Local Authority. | 4                   | 5                                                | Nil | Nil                     |
| (2) Factories not included in above in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority     | 7                   | 3                                                | Nil | Nil                     |
| (3) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority                      | -                   | -                                                | Nil | Nil                     |
| TOTAL                                                                                   | 11                  | 8                                                | Nil | Nil                     |



Cont.

2. Cases in which defects were found.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS

| Particulars                                                                                | Found | Remedied | Referred to<br>H.M.I. | Prosecutions |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Want of cleanliness<br>(S.1.)                                                              | 2     | 2        | -                     | -            |
| Overcrowding (S.2)                                                                         | -     | -        | -                     | -            |
| Unreasonable<br>Temperature .....                                                          | -     | -        | -                     | -            |
| Inadequate<br>Ventilation.....                                                             | -     | -        | -                     | -            |
| Ineffective drainage<br>of floors .....                                                    | -     | -        | -                     | -            |
| Sanitary Conveniences<br>(S.7)                                                             |       |          |                       |              |
| (a) Insufficient                                                                           | -     | -        | -                     | -            |
| (b) Unsuitable or<br>defective ...                                                         | -     | -        | -                     | -            |
| (c) Not separate<br>for sexes ...                                                          | -     | -        | -                     | -            |
| Other offences against<br>the Act (not including<br>offences relating to<br>Outwork ... .. | -     | -        | -                     | -            |
| FOUL ... ..                                                                                | 2     | 2        | -                     | -            |
| Outworkers ... ..                                                                          | Nil   |          |                       |              |

During the year progress started in 1959 has been maintained and a steady improvement of conditions has taken place.

Your labour force was depleted for a time due to the general foreman resigning his appointment due to illness. In due course a new foreman was appointed and I am please to say he is proving very suitable in every way.

During the year the Council moved into new offices in Bridge St., your staff are now working in much better and healthier conditions. In addition the Council have a chamber of which they can be proud.

Your Medical Officer has mentioned the flood which affected the town of Usk at the end of the year. I would like in addition to her remarks to say that the help and comfort given by the members of the Council, Police, Fire Service, Nationalized Undertaking, Voluntary Organisations and your own employees must have greatly assisted the victims of the disaster. The Council organized a free issue of coal to the tenants of flooded houses and a relief fund was instituted. Claims in connection with the fund were being received at the end of the year.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Council and members of the staff for their willing co-operation and assistance.

I am ladies and gentlemen.

W. Pearson A.M.I.S.E., M.A.P.H.I., A.F.S. (Eng)

Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector

